Growth Centres opened in H.P.

3101. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) The number of growth centres opened during the Eighth Five Year plan in Himachal pradesh;

(b) The extent to which these growth centres could achieve their objectives; and

(c) The number of growth centres proposed to be opened during the Ninth Five Year Plan in Himachal Pradesh with the details of their locations.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) One growth Centre has been allotted to the Himachal pradesh under the Growrth Centre Seheme. The Growth Centre has been approved by the Central Government on 20-2-1997 at kangra (District Kangra).

According to the report received from the State Government on this Growth Centre a number of plots have been developed and allotted and industrial units are being set up.

Safeguarding the Interest of SSI

3102. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware that with many items reserved for the small scale sector going into the Open General List, the SSI sector will be adversely affected; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are proposing to take to safeguard the interest of Small Scale Industry which generates employment for six crore people, account for 40% of GDP and contributes about 60% of the total exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Import restrictions on 714 tariff lines, were removed on 31-3-2000. Out of these only 58 are those which are of interest to small scale sector. However, all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of customs duties.

Government is aware of the emerging scenario for the SSI Units and has taken several steps to help them become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology up-gradation, infrastructure assistance through the cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure, marketing and timely information dissemination, including sensitization of small industries to the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation.

The government also proposes to take following specific steps for helping the SSI units :—

(1) A Sechme of credit guarantee is being launched shortly, for which a provision of Rs. 100 Crores has been made in the Budget for the years 2000-2001.

(2) In the Union Budget 2000-2001 the operation of the special scheme called the Technology Development and Modernisation Fund of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), is proposed to be extended by another three years.

(3) The Ministry of Small scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries is planning to introduce a scheme of interest support to small scale entrepreneurs going in for technology up-gradation and modernisation.

(4) In the amendments to the Export and Import Policy, announced on 31-3-2000. Export Promotion Capital goods Scheme has been liberalised to include SSI Sector, which now can import capital goods required for export production at the concessional duty rate of 5%.

Anti Dumping Cases Filed with Anti-Dumping Directorate

3103. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) The total number of anti-dumping cases filed with Anti-dumping Directorate during the last three years (year-wise break-up);

(b) The country-wise breakup of the cases;

(c) The total number of cases decided by the Director; and

(d) The details of the decisions taken by the Directorate ?